

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1094

By Crawford

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Appalachian Express Chorus on the occasion of the group's fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those entertainers who regale audiences with their talent and showmanship; and

WHEREAS, one such group of entertainers is the Appalachian Express Chorus (AEC), which will celebrate fifty years of four-part *a cappella* harmony with an anniversary show on April 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the fiftieth anniversary show will take place at The Wellmont Regional Center for the Performing Arts at Northeast State Community College in Blountville and will feature thirty-five male voices singing both classic and contemporary favorites in barbershop style; there will also be a special guest appearance by the Hills Are Alive! Chorus from Bristol, Virginia, and International Barbershop Quartet finalists Boardwalk; and

WHEREAS, the AEC was organized in October 1968 in Johnson City; after being known initially as The Voluntones, the group then came to be called the Quad City Chorus before landing on the current moniker; and

WHEREAS, the group was founded by the late Gil Oxendine, who was minister of music at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church and had a lifelong love of barbershop harmony; after Mr. Oxendine left the Tri-Cities area, his assistant, Tony Bowman of Jonesborough, took over the directorship, in which capacity he served for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, the current director of the AEC is Mr. Bowman's former assistant Mark Kettner, who has been at the helm for the past few years and is also an engineer at Eastman Chemical Company; and

WHEREAS, chorus members hail from all over the Northeast Tennessee area, including Kingsport, Johnson City, Jonesborough, Surgoinsville, Elizabethton, Piney Flats, Unicoi, and Blountville, as well as Bristol, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in March of this year, the AEC competed in Huntsville, Alabama; among the many choruses competing, the AEC attained its highest-ever score as a chorus, was named the Dixie District's Most Improved Chorus, and was awarded fourth place overall; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Express Chorus has been delighting listeners for half a century, and it is fitting that this group be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Appalachian Express Chorus upon the occasion of the organization's fiftieth anniversary, extending our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.